

CHINA

THE

MAIL.

Established February, 1845.

The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

With which is incorporated

HONGKONG, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1879.

日西初月二年卯巳

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

VOL. XXXV. No. 4878. 甲子年九月廿四日

HONGKONG, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1879.

日西初月二年卯巳

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALAR, 8, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street.—GEORGE STREET & CO., 30, Cornhill.—GORDON & GOTON, Ludgate Circus, E. C.—BATES, HENRY & CO., 4, Old Jewry, E.C.—SAMUEL DRAGON & CO., 160 & 154, Leadenhall Street.

PARIS AND EUROPE.—LEON DE BOISNE, 19, Rue Monceau, Paris.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 133, Nassau Street.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GOLDON & GOTON, Melbourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BROWN & BLACK, San Francisco.

SINGAPORE AND STRAITS.—SAXIE & CO., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZEL & CO., Manila.

CHINA.—MACAO, MESNA A. A. DE MELLO & CO., SWATOW, CAMPBELL & CO., AMoy, WILSON, NICHOLS & CO., Foochow, HEDGES & CO., Shanghai. LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-in Capital, \$5,000,000 Dollars.

Reserve Fund, \$1,000,000 Dollars.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—W. H. FORBES, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—Hon. W. KESWICK,

E. R. BEELDERS, Esq. WILLIAM REINHOLD,

H. L. DALBYMPLE, Esq.

E. D. SABROON, Esq.

H. HOPKINS, Esq. W. S. YOUNG, Esq.

A. MCILVER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.

Hongkong—THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER.

Shanghai—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

LONDON BANKERS—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

For Fixed Deposits:

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

" 6 " 4 per cent. "

" 12 " 5 per cent. "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts, granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation,

No. 1, Queen's Road East,

Hongkong, February 15, 1879.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON FIXED DEPOSITS.

At 3 months' notice 3% per Annum.

" 6 " 4% "

" 12 " 5% "

On Current Accounts at Rates which can be ascertained at their Office.

D. A. J. CROMBIE,

Acting Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation,

Hongkong, November 23, 1878.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

CAPITAL, £260,000.

RESERVE FUND, £150,000.

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE CITY BANK.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

THE BANK'S BRANCH in Hongkong grants Drafts on London and the

Chief Commercial places in Europe and the

East; buys and receives for collection Bills

of Exchange, and conducts all kinds of

Banking and Exchange Business.

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

On Current Accounts, 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits.

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

" 6 " 4 per cent. "

" 12 " 5 per cent. "

F. HUTCHINSON

begs to announce to the Community of

Hongkong that he will be able to supply

BEEF, MUTTON, &c.

from 1st October, and trusts that they may grant him their support.

Shop—WELLINGTON STREET, opposite the Cathedral.

Hongkong, September 20, 1878.

For Sale.

RECENTLY ARRIVED,
AND
FOR SALE.

ODGERS CELEBRATED CUTLERY.
WATERLOW'S and De LA RUE'S STATIONERY.
DESSERT and DINNER SERVICES.
TABLE GLASSWARE.
GENT'S TOOL CHESTS.
CABIN SUSPENSION and BULK-HEAD SWINGING LAMPS for OIL.
CABIN SWINGING CANDLE-STICKS.
SIGNAL and MASTHEAD LAMPS, (Latest Admiralty Regulation).
TUBE EXPANDERS, Assorted Sizes.
ENGINEER'S HAMMERS.
MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENTS.
COPPER WIRE GAUZE.
SPIRIT LEVELS.
INDIA RUBBER SHEETS, Assorted Sizes.
INSERTION RUBBER, Assorted Sizes.
INDIA RUBBER DOOR MATS.
INDIA RUBBER SUCTION and DELIVERY HOSE.
CANVAS DELIVERY HOSE.
LEATHER BELTING.

A Large and Choice Assortment of American and English ELECTRO-PLATED WARE.

NEW and POPULAR BOOKS,

INSTRUCTIVE and AMUSING EDUCATIONAL WORKS.

WORKS OF REFERENCE.

PRESENTATION BOOKS.

NOVELS, &c.

MUSIC & SONGS,

by First-class Composers,

OPERAS, MUSICAL INSTRUCTION BOOKS, &c.

A Fine Selection of SHERRIES.

Very Fine "O. K." BOURBON WHISKY.

CHATEAU DE FRANDS.

(A fine full flavoured Breakfast CLARET.)

BRANDIES, GIN.

LIQUEURS.

ALES.

&c.

LAMMERT, ATKINSON & CO.

Hongkong, February 21, 1879.

FOR SALE.

EUGENE RIMMEL'S TROPICAL FLOWER WATER.

SUPERIOR TO ALL SIMILAR PREPARATIONS.

VOGEL & Co.,

Sole Agents for China.

Hongkong, February 19, 1879.

Intimations.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

N O T I C E is hereby given, that an

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS in the above-named Company, will be Held at the HEAD OFFICE, Victoria, Hongkong, on MONDAY, the 24th March, 1879, at 3 o'CLOCK P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1878.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 10th March to the

24th March; both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board.

J. BREMNER,

Storekeeper.

H. M. VICTUALLING YARD,

Hongkong, February 11, 1879.

CHINESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT LOAN 1877.

THE COUPONS falling due 28th

February current of the above LOAN,

together with the BONDS DRAWN for Redemptions, will be Paid at the Office of this

CORPORATION on and after that Date.

For the

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Agents Issuing the Loan.

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, February 22, 1879.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND declared for the Half-

year ending 31st December last, at

the Rate of ONE POUND STERLING (£1 Sg.) per Share of £125, is PAYABLE on and after

MONDAY, the 17th of March next, at

the Office of the Corporation, where Share-

holders are requested to apply for Warrants

By Order of the Court of Directors,

T. JACKSON,

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, February 15, 1879.

NOTICE.

Mrs. J. F. ROSE begs to intimate to

the Ladies of HONGKONG, CANTON

and the Coast Ports that on the 1st

MARCH, she will OPEN a DRAPERY

and DRESS-MAKING Business in the

Premises lately occupied by Messrs. ROSE & CO., next door to the Hongkong Hotel,

Queen's Road.

All communications to be addressed to

Mrs. J. F. Rose, as the Business will be

conducted on her sole account.

Hongkong, February 1, 1879.

DENTAL NOTICE.

D. ROGERS will visit SHANGHAI

during the Summer Months, leaving

Hongkong on the 1st of April next.

By Order,

J. BRADLEY SMITH,

General Agent.

Shipping.

Steamers.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOOCHOW.
The Steamship
"DOUGLAS,"
Capt. M. Young, will be despatched for the above Ports on TUESDAY, the 25th Instant, at Day-light, instead of as previously notified.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAK & Co.,
Hongkong, February 22, 1879. fe28

FOR YOKOHAMA & HIAGO.

The Steamship
"SAINT MARK,"
Captain T. J. Johnson, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 26th Instant, at Day-light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

MEYER & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, February 22, 1879. fe28

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR PORT DARWIN, COOKTOWN,
SYDNEY & MELBOURNE,

Taking Cargo and Passengers for all Australasian and New Zealand Ports.

TASMANIA, NEW CALEDONIA & FIJI.

The Company's Steamship

"OCEAN,"

Captain Edmundson, Commander,

will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 6th Proximo, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, February 18, 1879. mab

FOR YOKOHAMA & HIAGO.

The Steamship
"EVRIOT,"

expected here on or about

the 24th Instant, will have immediate despatch for the above Ports.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, February 20, 1879.

Sailing Vessels.

FOR VICTORIA (VANCOUVER'S ISLAND).

The A 1 American Bark

"HELENE,"

Captain Snow, will load here for the above Port, and have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.,

Hongkong, February 18, 1879. mab10

FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).

The A 1 American Bark

"COLUMBIA,"

Captain Hale, will load here for the above Port, and have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.,

Hongkong, February 18, 1879. mab13

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The A 1 American Ship

"MATCHLESS,"

Captain Dawes, will load here for the above Port, and have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.,

Hongkong, February 18, 1879. mab13

FOR LONDON.

The A 1 British Bark

"STRATHMORE,"

Millar, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, February 18, 1879.

FOR HAMBURG.

The 8/3 L. 1 1 German Schooner

"HOLSTEIN,"

Kulpe, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, February 5, 1879.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The A 1 American Ship

"BLACK HAWK,"

Howland, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, January 30, 1879.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The A 1 American Bark

"ROSETTA McNEIL,"

Brown, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, January 30, 1879.

FOR LONDON.

The 8/3 L. I. I. Norwegian Ship

"SUMARLIDE,"

Tohansen, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, January 30, 1879.

FOR HONOLULU.

The A 1 American Barkentines

"MIGNON,"

Soule, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, January 30, 1879.

FOR NEW YORK.

The A 1 British Bark

"HAZELBURY,"

Gothet, Master.

For Freight, apply to

VOGEL & Co.,

Hongkong, January 30, 1879.

CARGO.

Per Yung-tze, sailed 22nd February, 1879.—For Conchita, 1,068 bales Silk, 63 bales Waste Silk, 6 bales Porpoise, 7 cases Silk, and 312 Sundries; for London, 604 bales Silk, 57 bales Waste Silk, 13 bales Porpoise, 6 cases Silk, 7 cases Sundries, and 2 cases Gold (Tsh. \$10,000).

Intimations.

3rd DRAWING.

Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1877.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in conformity with the stipulation contained in the Bonds of this Loan, the following numbers of Bonds to be paid off at par, on the 28th of February next (1879), when the Interest thereon will cease to be payable, were this day Drawn at the Offices of the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, situate No. 31 Lombard Street, in this City, in the presence of Mr. WILLIAM NICHOLLS, Acting Accountant of the said Corporation, and of the undersigned Notary.

NUMBERS OF BONDS DRAWN.

1147 Bonds Nos.:-													
11	1614	3220	4944	6443	8063	9662	11276	12883	14498				
21	1637	3240	4848	6457	8065	9685	11287	12899	14500				
31	1641	3262	4868	6469	8083	9691	11307	12916	14521				
41	1656	3276	4880	6492	8095	9703	11315	12932	14536				
51	1660	3279	4900	6500	8110	9718	11324	12940	14550				
61	1674	3294	4903	6517	8133	9740	11344	12957	14570				
71	1694	3318	4926	6538	8136	9748	11355	12968	14578				
81	1701	3320	4931	6552	8153	9770	11373	12991	14591				
91	1722	3337	4956	6556	8164	9778	11386	12993	14603				
101	1732	3347	4967	6579	8180	9788	11400	13010	14620				
111	1742	3359	4971	6589	8194	9813	11414	13028	14640				
121	1764	3382	4992	6596	8205	9824	11428	13035	14657				
131	1769	3393	4996	6610	8225	9841	11442	13055	14669				
141	1791	3402	5012	6610	8235	9845	11463	13074	14670				
151	1804	3416	5021	6625	8238	9858	11477	13079	14690				
161	1820	3426	5039	6644	8247	9868	11492	13099	14705				
171	1825	3444	5046	6659	8264	9874	11494	13107	14716				
181	1835	3458	5057	6668	8284	9887	11502	13106	14726				
191	1862	3469	5082	6688	8291	9899	11510	13123	14731				
201	1874	3486	5089	6693	8306	9916	11528	13137	14743				
211	1890	3493	5109	6708	8322	9930	11537	13151	14765				
221	1894	3512	5124	6725	8333	9943	11553	13164	14784				
231	1916	3528	5131	6735	8356	9958	11565	13179	1479				

formed that no less than twenty-three boys are already on the list, and that this is looked upon as the beginning of much greater things. There cannot be two opinions as to the necessity for a good Protestant School for the boys of well-to-do parents. Many Europeans and Americans object to send their boys to the Central School for obvious reasons; and although the want of a good unmix school is perhaps not so generally felt as it was in 1876, when the Hon. Mr. Ryrie spoke on the subject in the Legislative Council, we feel certain that Mr. Kidd is doing a good work in trying to organise such an institution here. There is no reason why the experiment should not succeed, and ultimately number among its pupils boys from the entire coast lines of China and Japan.

H. M.'s TROOP-SHIP *Himalaya* arrived here to-day with the 27th Regiment and some supernumerary Naval Officers. Her dates are Portsmouth 28th December, Gibraltar 4th January, Malta 13th, Cyprus 17th, Port Said 18th, Suez 20th, Aden 28th and Singapore 17th February. She experienced very good weather the whole passage, and the troops are all in a good state of health. She has on board the Hon. W. Cadogan, and M. W. Eastlake, 21 Military officers, 5 ladies, and 7 children; 888 soldiers, 39 women, and 53 children and 12 supernumerary officers. We understand that the troops are likely to be landed early to-morrow. It was at first thought that part of the 74th would have to be sent on board the *Victor Emmanuel* for a short time, to make room for the incoming regiment, but this has now been found unnecessary.

The members of our Amateur Dramatic Club and many of Mr Chas. Holliday's friends in Hongkong will be pleased to learn that he has not forgotten his earlier efforts in the City Hall of this Colony. One of Mr Holliday's best characters was as the Secretary in (*If we mistake not*) "Plot and Passion," performed here several years ago. The *Whitehall Review*, of Jan. 11th, says:—

"Diseases, I am told, means hunger and cold. Now, therefore, is the time for Amateurs to use their talents for a far higher purpose than their own amusement. The Manchester Amateurs, with Mr Charles Holliday at their head, and assisted by Mrs Monckton and Sir Charles Young, netted a good round sum the other day, I hear, for the funds of a Volunteer Corps by their performance of 'Masks and Faces.' Surely there are other funds which stand in sore need of assistance, especially in the great manufacturing towns. To aid these pleasure would become a duty, and a night's receipts would gladden many a sorrowful heart."

THE steward of the American barque *Masonic* left this to-day per S.S. *City of Peking*, to be tried at San Francisco for the murder of the Captain of that vessel, on the night of the 14th November, at Manila. A short notice of the sad affair appeared in our issue of the 28th November last. The man—a Frenchman by birth—was brought here from Manila by the U.S.S. *Ashuelot*, and has been detained on board there until the *City of Peking* was leaving to-day. From what we can learn the Steward's version of the story is this. He had been some 4 years in the ship, and was placed there by the owner, the late Captain having only been in her a short time. The Steward, it appears, was a man possessed of little money, and the owner was anxious that he should take a share in the vessel. He was instructed by the owner to see that nothing was wasted, and owing to the manner in which he behaved, the Captain conceived a very great dislike for him. On the night of 14th November, the Captain beat him, and drove him out of the cabin; the steward then went to the main hatch and sat down, when the deceased came and again beat him. The steward next sought refuge in the galley, and shortly afterwards he heard the Captain say "Where is that French son of a—; don't let him go before the forecastle or abait the mizzenmast." The deceased then went to the galley, and again assaulted the steward, who, in a moment of frenzy, snatched up a knife which was lying in the galley, and stabbed the deceased once in the abdomen. The deceased died about a hour after he was stabbed. The second mate and the man who was on watch at the time accompany the prisoner to San Francisco as witness for the prosecution.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the above Company was held this afternoon. Present:—Hon. W. Kenwick (in the chair), Messrs. H. Hoppius, G. B. Emory, C. D. Bottomley, A. Molver (Directors), T. G. Linstead, F. T. P. Foster, A. Newton, R. Deacon, A. G. Vaucher, J. T. Chater, J. Robinson, N. J. Ede, R. Lyall, and D. Gillies (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, after suggesting that the report be taken as read, said that the report contained an account of the working of the Company for the past half-year. The Directors regretted that the Dividend was not larger than it was, but it was pleasing to turn over the last to the profits of the

current half-year. The Dockers at the present moment were fully employed, and there was every likelihood of their continuing to be so for some months to come. Perhaps it would not be wise to anticipate too much; but seeing what the Company had achieved in the past, when the prospect was anything but bright, he thought they were justified in taking a hopeful view of the prospects now before them.

The CHAIRMAN concluded by proposing the adoption of the report.

Mr R. DEACON seconded; and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr LINSTEAD proposed, and Mr Newton seconded, that the retiring Directors (Messrs. H. Hoppius and A. Molver) be re-elected.

This proposition was also carried unanimously.

Mr J. T. CHATER proposed, and Mr N. J. Ede seconded, that Messrs. Linstead and Robinson be re-elected auditors for the present year.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN then intimated that the dividend warrants would be issued immediately.

This closed the proceedings.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

An ordinary meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held this afternoon at the Offices, Queen's Road. There were present, Hon. H. Lowcock (in the Chair), Hon. P. Ryrie, and Messrs. Forbes, and McIver (Directors), and Messrs. G. Sharp, McConachie, Belchers, Andie, Vaucher, Barretto, George, Nunn, Deacon, J. H. Cox, Newton, A. Smith, Crawford, W. Wilson, and J. B. Coughtrie (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen; I offering to you the usual Report and statement of Account, although I cannot hope that you will consider it quite as brilliant as usual, I may perhaps venture to believe that you will consider it on the whole as satisfactory. It has been in your hands for some time, and you will perhaps take it as read. The working account will show that the Office has done during the twelve months a larger amount of business than it did during either of the two years, while our interest account also shows a handsome profit over that of last year. Under these circumstances I think that considering the enormous losses we have had to pay this year, the Report may be considered as satisfactory, and that the shareholders may be gratified with the position of the Office. Unless any gentleman has any questions to ask, or any remarks to make concerning the Report, I will propose that it be adopted, and the accounts passed.

Mr ANDRE: May I ask, Mr Chairman, how you estimate the premium on risks uninsured on the 31st December last?

The CHAIRMAN: At the moment I cannot tell you. No estimate has been made of it at present, but it will be made out and sent in.

Mr ANDRE: According to my calculations the proportion of the premia for the year will be about \$64,000; and if the amount carried forward is \$164,000, if you take from that the losses \$66,000, and the dividend \$48,000, and also 20 per cent., which amounts to about \$35,000, you will have about \$140,000 to pay, and there will remain about \$24,000.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, there will remain about \$24,000, which we hope to carry forward on 1878 accounts, when they are fairly closed, to Reserve Fund. When the matter was considered by the Board we thought that \$24,000 was ample to meet all outstanding possibilities.

Mr ANDRE: I should like to put another question. Shortly after the calamity which befell this Colony on Christmas Day, it was thought expedient by some of the leading insurance companies in this place to issue a circular binding themselves to decline insurance on Chinese goods stored in Chinese houses. The circular was signed by the Secretary of this Company, but after the lapse of about one week his signature was withdrawn by order of the Board of Directors. I have no doubt that when the document was signed it was considered a serious step, and it certainly did not tend to throw credit on the very respectable Chinese community of this place, but at the same time it was an undoubted fact that with European houses, managed by Europeans, it was impossible for them to make such a close investigation as should be made in cases of calamity. I should be happy to know from you, Mr Chairman, for what reasons you have withdrawn the signature of the Secretary. I cannot think he would sign such an important document without the sanction of any of the Directors. At the same time I should also be happy to know if this Company intends to take provision of further means for the prevention and extinction of fires.

The CHAIRMAN: In reply to the question that has been put I may say that a few days before the circular was signed by the Secretary it was placed before the Board, and of course received the consideration it merited. There was one clause—I really forgot the actual tenor of it—which the Directors thought was undesirable, and on that account the Secretary was requested not to sign it. A few days afterwards it came round in a different form, and the Secretary erroneously thinking the Board would approve of it, signed it without further reference to any of the Directors. At the following meeting the Directors said they did not think that was a desirable one—that it was unnecessary. This Company never have accepted risks on Chinese property stored in any Chinese buildings, but, while that was the case, they did not consider it was desirable actually to bind themselves under no circumstances, to take such risks, and therefore they requested that the signature should be withdrawn.

Mr ANDRE: I am very much obliged to you; I am thoroughly satisfied, and the explanation must be also perfectly satisfactory to the shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN: I propose the adoption of the Report and passing of the Accounts if any one will second the motion.

Mr ANDRE: I quite agreed with the general tenor of Mr Sharp's remarks. But

Carried unanimously.

Mr FORBES proposed that Messrs. Ryrie and Forbes be re-elected Directors.

Mr ANDRE seconded the motion.

Mr RYRIE: As you are probably aware, Mr Lind, who was on this Board, was compelled to leave on account of ill health, and Mr Molver, having returned to the Colony, the Board invited him to occupy the seat which he had previously held. This requires confirmation by this meeting; therefore I beg to propose that the appointment of Mr Molver to the Board be confirmed.

Mr DEACON seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr WORRALL proposed that Messrs. D. A. J. Crombie and Mr J. H. Cox be re-elected Auditors.

Mr BARRETTO seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr LINTHORN proposed that Messrs. H. Hoppius and A. Molver be re-elected Directors.

Carried unanimously.

Mr WORRALL said he would withdraw his resolution if it were of no use.

The proceedings then terminated.

until they saw what the Government intended doing he thought it would be unwise handing their engines over to the Government. He thought the Government might be again reminded of the resolution; there was no occasion to pass a fresh one.

Mr DEACON thought it would be undesirable that the motion should be again passed in connection with the remarks made by Mr Sharp. It was impossible that all the foreign companies would pay the same proportion to the expenses of the fire extinguishing arrangements.

Mr SHARP said he would withdraw his resolution if it were of no use.

The proceedings then terminated.

REPETITION OF H. M. S. PINAFORE.

The performance of Sullivan's operetta H. M. S. *Pinafore* was repeated by the Choral Society on Saturday evening at the Theatre Royal, City Hall. There was a crowded house, and a vague hope was entertained that another local "hit" was to be made by Signor Traebini. No such attempt was made, however, and the performance was so much the less interesting for those who had assembled to see the above-named comedian and not the characters proper to the piece. In adding a word or two to what we have already written on the subject, it may be honestly said that the general opinion of the representation of Saturday night was that "H. M. S. *Pinafore*," on its own merits, was a genuine success. Stripped of the intense interest lent to it by a foreign and imported (though local) excellence, it was really a good performance, and but for the disadvantageous comparison thus rendered possible, would have been classed very high in the list of the Choral Society's successes.

Some of us are suffering from the effects of the fire which we are suffering, and gentlemen in this room, with the exception of a slight recession in the value of stocks, have suffered nothing from the fire. Some of us have been very large gainers

—it is some of us are busy restoring properties and so on. Then who are the sufferers? I think the severest sufferers are the Chinese. I know of very many cases where I have found shops full of idle workmen in the outlying districts. I have asked them what is the matter; nothing to do? "No; no got work; no got shop sell'em; no man want make." The shops were burnt down, and no trade was being done. Even the vacant shops were not filled. The people are simply gone away for some time, and you will perhaps take it as read. The working account will show that the Office has done during the twelve months a larger amount of business than it did during either of the two years, while our interest account also shows a handsome profit over that of last year. Under these circumstances I think that considering the enormous losses we have had to pay this year, the Report may be considered as satisfactory, and that the shareholders may be gratified with the position of the Office. Unless any gentleman has any questions to ask, or any remarks to make concerning the Report, I will propose that it be adopted, and the accounts passed.

Mr ANDRE: May I ask, Mr Chairman, how you estimate the premium on risks uninsured on the 31st December last?

The CHAIRMAN: At the moment I cannot tell you. No estimate has been made of it at present, but it will be made out and sent in.

Mr ANDRE: According to my calculations the proportion of the premia for the year will be about \$64,000; and if the amount carried forward is \$164,000, if you take from that the losses \$66,000, and the dividend \$48,000, and also 20 per cent., which amounts to about \$35,000, you will have about \$140,000 to pay, and there will remain about \$24,000.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, there will remain about \$24,000, which we hope to carry forward on 1878 accounts, when they are fairly closed, to Reserve Fund. When the matter was considered by the Board we thought that \$24,000 was ample to meet all outstanding possibilities.

Mr ANDRE: I should like to put another question. Shortly after the calamity which befell this Colony on Christmas Day, it was

thought expedient by some of the leading insurance companies in this place to issue a circular binding themselves to decline insurance on Chinese goods stored in Chinese houses. The circular was signed by the Secretary of this Company, but after the lapse of about one week his signature was withdrawn by order of the Board of Directors. I have no doubt that when the document was signed it was considered a serious step, and it certainly did not tend to throw credit on the very respectable Chinese community of this place, but at the same time it was an undoubted fact that with European houses, managed by Europeans, it was impossible for them to make such a close investigation as should be made in cases of calamity. I should be happy to know from you, Mr Chairman, for what reasons you have withdrawn the signature of the Secretary. I cannot think he would sign such an important document without the sanction of any of the Directors. At the same time I should also be happy to know if this Company intends to take provision of further means for the prevention and extinction of fires.

The CHAIRMAN: In reply to the question that has been put I may say that a few days before the circular was signed by the Secretary it was placed before the Board, and of course received the consideration it merited. There was one clause—I really forgot the actual tenor of it—which the Directors thought was undesirable, and on that account the Secretary was requested not to sign it. A few days afterwards it came round in a different form, and the Secretary erroneously thinking the Board would approve of it, signed it without further reference to any of the Directors. At the following meeting the Directors said they did not think that was a desirable one—that it was unnecessary. This Company never have accepted risks on Chinese property stored in any Chinese buildings, but, while that was the case, they did not consider it was desirable actually to bind themselves under no circumstances, to take such risks, and therefore they requested that the signature should be withdrawn.

Mr ANDRE: I am very much obliged to you; I am thoroughly satisfied, and the explanation must be also perfectly satisfactory to the shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN: I propose the adoption of the Report and passing of the Accounts if any one will second the motion.

Mr ANDRE: I quite agreed with the general tenor of Mr Sharp's remarks. But

knife, and when she took her one she said it was dirty and slapped her (complainant's) face, and gave her two blows on the head with a broom. There were no marks.

Defendant stated that she had told the complainant to fetch some water. She brought dirty water, and when asked why she did no reply that she (defendant) could wash herself in it. On being asked what she had said, she went down stairs and began to pack up her things. She was told she could not leave the house until defendant's husband returned, and complainant then threatened defendant with a broom. The weapon was taken from her, and the mistress then acted on the offensive and pushed complainant outside, when a word of words ensued, which lasted for a considerable time. Defendant was fined \$1.

LAWCOURT.

Wong Atsol, a cargo-boat man, was sent to 8 months' hard labour for stealing 22 coconuts, the property of the master of the German barque *Humboldt*.

DRUNKENNESS.

William Curnow, cook British barque *Black Watch*; Robert Walter Gale, seaman Sailor's Home and James Davidson, seaman Sailor's Home, were charged with being drunk and incapable. The first defendant was fined \$1; the other two 50 cents each.

ALLEGED BAREFACED ROBBERY.

Yum Aping, the coolie who was charged with stealing \$1 from one of Dr. Ayres' chair coolies at the Race-Course, was committed for trial at the Supreme Court.

A STRANGE CASE.

Bali Singh (P.C. 625), was charged on remand with misconduct as a police constable and with destroying his clothes. The case was remanded from Saturday, in order to give Dr. Ayres an opportunity to report as to the state of the man's mind. Dr. Ayres reported that the man was in perfect possession of his senses, and Mr. Creagh, addressing the defendant, said that he had only refused bail as there appeared to be some doubt as to his state of mind. The doctor had certified to defendant being in his right mind, so he (Mr. Creagh) would discharge him, giving the benefit of some doubt he entertained regarding the truth of his story. Discharged with a caution.

SUPREME COURT.

(Before Chief Justice Sir JOHN SNALE.)
24th February, 1879.

REGINA v. FUNG A-CHOI, LO A-NG, AND NG MIN-CHAI.

The prisoners were indicted for unlawfully detaining a female child under the age of 14 years, and the second prisoner was further charged with bringing the child into the Colony for the purpose of selling her.

The Hon. the Acting Attorney General (J. Russell, Esq.) appeared to prosecute, and Mr Ng Choy appeared to watch the case on behalf of the first prisoner.

The following gentlemen comprised the Jury: Messrs. W. H. T. Darby, F. Freire, J. J. da Silva E. Souza, P. Rhodes, J. Lembe, E. Beart, and J. Alabor. The jury retired, and after an absence of about twenty minutes returned into Court with a verdict of guilty against all three prisoners on the first count, the first prisoner being recommended to mercy on the ground of her respectability; the second prisoner was found not guilty on the second count.

The Sessions were then adjourned till to-morrow; when Jurors not having served will be required to attend at 10 a.m. The others will not be required unless specially sent for. There is only one case to be heard—a case of larceny of some four from an American barque. All the prisoners who have been convicted will be sentenced on Thursday; and the European charged with cutting and wounding a shipmate on board a ship at Yokohama, will probably be discharged by proclamation.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The P. & O. Co.'s steamship *Bokhara*, Captain Julius Osman, with the London mail of the 17th January, arrived here yesterday morning.

TELEGRAMS.

